



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

June 27, 2003

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Partner:

The ENERGY STAR criteria for room air conditioners, clothes washers and residential refrigerators are changing and/or expanding over the coming months. In some cases, ENERGY STAR criteria will change in conjunction with changes in federal minimum (NAECA) standards. This document outlines the new criteria and provides guidance on implementation.

ENERGY STAR Qualified Room Air Conditioners

On October 1, 2003, the ENERGY STAR room air conditioners criteria will expand beyond only louvered, non-heating product classes to include the non-louvered, non-heating product classes and the casement product classes. The qualifying energy performance levels will remain 10% better than the federal standard.

Equipment (Btu/Hr)	Federal Standard EER, w/louvers	ENERGY STAR EER, w/louvers	Federal Standard EER, w/o louvers	ENERGY STAR EER, w/o louvers
<6,000	≥9.7	≥10.7	≥9.0	≥9.9
6,000 to 7,999				
8,000 to 13,999	≥9.8	≥10.8	≥8.5	≥9.4
14,000 to 19,999	≥9.7	≥10.7		
>20,000	≥8.5	≥9.4		
	Federal Standard EER		ENERGY STAR EER	
Casement only	≥ 8.7		≥ 9.6	
Casement-slider	≥ 9.5		≥ 10.5	

ENERGY STAR Qualified Clothes Washers

On January 1, 2004, the ENERGY STAR clothes washer criteria will change, as will the federal standard. The table below shows the coming changes:

Equipment/Product Class	Current Criteria	New Criteria 1/1/04	New Criteria 1/1/07
ENERGY STAR	MEF ≥ 1.26	MEF ≥ 1.42	
Federal standard -top loading	EF ≥ 1.18	MEF ≥ 1.04	MEF ≥ 1.26
Federal standard -front loading	NA		

Only full-size top and front-loading product classes are eligible for ENERGY STAR. Note the federal standard has two performance level changes scheduled on January 1, 2004 and January 1, 2007. The ENERGY STAR criteria is currently scheduled to only change on January 1, 2004, but will exceed the two planned federal energy performance increases.

ENERGY STAR Qualified Residential Refrigerators, Refrigerators/Freezers, and Freezers

On January 1, 2004, the ENERGY STAR criteria will change for refrigerators and refrigerator/freezers greater than or equal to 7.75 cubic feet. Qualifying models must use at least 15% less energy than the federal standard. The table below details the changes:

Equipment	Volume (Cubic feet)	Current Criteria ¹ (< NAECA)	New Criteria- 1/1/04 ¹ (<NAECA)
Refrigerators, Refrigerator/Freezers	≥ 7.75 and ≤ 39	10%	15%
	< 7.75	20% ²	
Freezers	≥ 7.75 and ≤ 30	10% ²	
	< 7.75	20% ²	

¹Percentage below federal maximum annual energy consumption (NAECA mandate) for respective product classes

²These performance levels will not change on 1/1/2004

Implementation of New ENERGY STAR Criteria

Consumers may still find the ENERGY STAR logo on models meeting the old clothes washer and refrigerator criteria in the retail environment for several months after the implementation dates for the new criteria.

Therefore, during this transition period, retail partners may continue to display product labels meeting the old ENERGY STAR criteria for six months after the effective date of the new criteria, if the model meets the following conditions (which are requirements under the partnership agreements that appliance manufacturers have signed with DOE):

- The manufacturer has used the ENERGY STAR logo on the EnergyGuide label, or
- The manufacturer has used a permanent ENERGY STAR logo on the actual product and/or packaging

Retailers must remove ENERGY STAR logo from any model not meeting the above criteria. To minimize confusion and reduce customer complaints, partners should keep sales associates informed about:

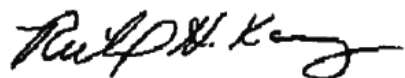
- The phase-in of new qualifying levels
- Which models meet the new criteria
- How to clearly articulate which models qualify for any utility-sponsored rebates or other incentives

To assist manufacturers and retailers, DOE will send an updated qualified appliance products list to each partner's designated liaison, which will clearly identify models meeting the current and revised ENERGY STAR criteria.

Manufacturers and retailers should be aware that utility programs are likely to only rebate and promote products that meet the new criteria.

Any units manufactured after either October 1, 2003 (for room air conditioners) or January 1, 2004 (for clothes washers and refrigerators) must meet the current ENERGY STAR criteria.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. H. Karney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Richard" and last name "Karney" clearly distinguishable.

Richard H. Karney, P.E.
ENERGY STAR Program Manager